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Christmas Decorations

Photographer Scott Snyder went driving around Poquoson to find Christmas decorations to photograph. This one, on Little Florida Road, especially caught his eye. There are a large number of seasonal decorations to be seen in the city this year. Some are very unique. Perhaps you might want to take a drive and see what your neighbors have done to help us all get the Christmas spirit.

School Board outlines five year plans

By Barbara Rollins-Reed

Ten specific goals of the city's Public School System have been identified to be included in the five year plan.

Some are new goals, established as the result of requests by school board members. Others are continuing goals from previous plans.

Superintendent of Schools Raymond Vernall presented the following list of specified goals to the school board at its meeting on Dec. 21.

- To strengthen and expand instructional services to students and instructional communication to parents.
- To provide a staff development program that is designed to help the school division improve its quality of instruction.
- To provide a division-wide articulated career guidance program in grades K-12; to enhance the image associated with "trade" courses and reduce the stigma associated with sex-stereo-type courses.
- To strengthen the academic and vocational rigors and requirements for earning a high school diploma.
- To review and analyze all special program offerings to determine their applicability and appropriateness for inclusion in the general curriculum.
- To provide computer literacy opportunities for all Poquoson City School students.
- To develop and implement programs to utilize available telecommunications equipment and networks.
- To promote and strengthen the avenues of communication among schools, between the school system and the community, and between the school board and the school system staff.
- To promote awareness of the importance of energy conservation and to reduce the consumption of energy.
- Capital needs of the school division will be identified and incorporated into an annually revised five year capital improvement plan.

Vernall will prepare the five year plan in final form and present it to the board for their consideration and action in January.

Accepts low bid

Vernall reported four engineering companies had submitted bids and plans to provide engineering services for replacement of heating systems at the elementary and middle schools.

The board accepted the low bid made by Spiers and Waltz, Inc.

Representatives of the company are scheduled to attend a special meeting of the board called for Jan. 11.

Use of existing library building

At the request of a letter from City Manager James Lord, the board discussed giving permission to the city for the senior citizens to use the existing library building located on school property.

It was the consensus of board members that use of the building by the senior citizens be approved, but several members felt final approval could not be given until a definite lease plan was developed and presented to them.

Property use requested

John Graham, a member of the Poquoson Athletic Association, addressed the board. He said his objective was to ask the board to consider making the use of school property available to the association for the purpose of constructing a community center.

The association would fund the construction of a building, approximately 4800 square feet, to be used for their programs, including wrestling, soccer and gymnastics. The accommodations could also be used by others, such as senior citizens and teenagers.

"We would like to build a place where we could have meetings and banquets," Graham said. "We would like to include kitchen facilities and a storage area where our organization can store its equipment."

Graham reported the association has tremendous fund-raising capability and could support the financial requirments needed to accomplish the construction.

The athletic association is asking the school board to make the area between the elementary school and the middle school available for the construction of the building. Currently, this property is used only for overflow parking during games played on the school fields.

Councilmember Gordon Helsel addressed the board in support of the request. He said he supports the association and its plan, and hopes the school board will find it in their wisdom to support it also.

Vernall said the school board is legally able to establish a contract with an organization to lease its land.

Chairman R. D. Burnett said the board would take the request under consideration.

Preliminary reports

R. Fletcher Gray, assistant superintendent for instruction, gave a preliminary report on vocational education for 1983-84.

He presented tenative expenditures to cover the cost of presenting courses in business, home economics, distributive education, industrial arts, and trade and industry.

It is projected that these programs will serve the needs of approximately 872 middle and high school students.

The Director of Services for Exception Children, Jeannette Wedding, presented her preliminary 1983-84 plan for special education.

The board set Jan. 11 as the date for a special meeting.

The purpose of the meeting will be to give additional consideration to the development of the five year plan, to confer with representatives of the firm selected to provide engineering services for heating systems, and to consider any other matters that may come before the board.